Petitions Received from Members of the Public

	Petition	Executive Member
1.	<u>Petition Opposing the Clean Air Zone Charging</u> Lead Petitioner: Jonathan Jones The Council has received an electric petition containing 228 signatures, opposing the Clean Air Zone charging. *This plan will seriously damage trade and footfall into an already struggling city centre. It does not take into account tourism across the city to access the Peak District nor the appalling effect Meadowhall has had on retail in Sheffield. The irony of a council who tried to destroy the main means of keeping Sheffield's air clean in the form of our trees taking a measure which has little scientific basis in terms of meteorological research into wind direction is breathtaking.* **Answered at the meeting, please see the minutes.**	Councillor Douglas Johnson
2.	**Petition Opposing the Plans to Install Red Lines on Ecclesall Road** The lead petitioner is Amy Lewis. The Council has received an electric petition containing 33 signatures, opposing the plans to install red lines on Ecclesall Road. *No red lines on Ecclesall road disgusting to even think this is a good idea!! Will effect business people who live near and come from all over to shop and socialise.* **Answered at the meeting, please see the minutes.**	Councillor Douglas Johnson
3.	**Petition Requesting the Council to Review and Remove the Double Yellow Lines at the Junction of Gainsford Road and Staniforth Road** The lead petitioner is Mansoor Afzal. The Council has received a petition containing 63 signatures, requesting the review and removal of the double yellow lines at the junction of Gainsford Road and Staniforth Road.	Councillor Douglas Johnson

	The double yellow lines are not effective now and causing problems with my customers. One side of the road yellow lines need to be removed immediately. **Answered at the meeting, please see the minutes.**	

Questions Received from Members of the Public

	Questions	Executive Member
1	**Public questions from Neill Schofield** **Joint Chair, Friends of Parkwood Springs** (1 in total):	
1.1	Question to Cabinet Member for City Futures, Development, Culture and Regeneration. 'I am asking this Question as Joint Chair of the Friends of Parkwood Springs, which is a large and active community group. We work in close partnership with the City Council to improve the whole of Parkwood Springs, as a resource for people, wildlife and the natural environment. Later in this meeting the Co-operative Executive will consider at Item 10 a report entitled 'Parkwood Options Appraisal'. Initially the Friends Group had considerable concerns about parts of the proposal. However, since Christmas we have been able to have very helpful discussions with Officers and the Cabinet Member. We remain absolutely opposed to an aspect of one of the options - that access by vehicles to the potential Skyline site might be from Cooks Wood Road/Shirecliffe Road. However we now understand why the Council needs to include that option in the process. Can the Cabinet Member confirm that in line with Department of Transport guidance, the transport options study will include early identification of the environmental and community constraints and impacts of each option alongside technical appraisals? We believe this is essential to ensure that fully informed decisions can be taken.	Councillor Mazher Iqbal

	Can he also re-affirm that the Friends Group and any other appropriate community groups will be fully involved at every stage of the process from here on for the development of the potential Skyline site at Parkwood Springs, to ensure that their views and concerns are given full weight in the process? **Answered at the meeting, please see the minutes.**	
2	**Public questions from Nigel Slack** (2 in total):	
2.1	**Q1** My apologies for the repetitive nature of this first question but since I am yet to receive a reasonable response I feel it necessary to continue asking, even in the face of such obstinate ignorance. Firstly, my thanks to the Deputy Leader for her response to question 2 from the set of specific questions first asked on 17th November 2021. Clearly the rules and expectations around 'recorded voting' within Council is worthy of further conversation. The attached specific points, with respect to the new 'plan' for Property Services, were first put to Council in questions 1 & 3 of that same November date, 8 weeks ago, following on from an initial question on the issues in October 2021. I repeated the questions for the December Exec Meeting but Covid issues led to that meeting being cancelled, though the questions were forwarded to the Exec Member by Democratic Services. That question has not even received an acknowledgement, never mind any actual answers. I therefore wish to give the Exec Member one last chance to respond in detail before escalating the matter. When might I expect a detailed response in writing? Please remember Council has had 8 weeks to respond so far. **Answered in writing, please see separate document.**	Councillor Cate McDonald
2.2	I share the Leader's disappointment in the news that has come out over last weekend about the behaviour of the Chief Executive. I understand his wanting to await the report of Sue Gray before looking into this further,	Councillor Terry Fox

| | but remain concerned over the independence of the Sue Gray enquiry and the likelihood that 'scapegoats' will be sacrificed to save 'Big Dog' himself.

Irrespective, how soon after that report is published, might we expect the Senior Officer Employment Committee to meet and discuss the issues surrounding this revelation?

Answered at the meeting, please see the minutes. | |

Nigel Slack - Unanswered Questions from 17th November 2021

Answers in italics from Councillor Cate McDonald – Executive Member for Finance and Resources

Questions to Co-operative Executive Committee Meeting

17th November 2021

Q1   The briefing attached to this question outlines my comments and concerns about the recent Land and Property Plan passed by the Labour Party members at the last Co-operative Executive Committee Meeting on the 20th October 2021, whilst the Green Party Members abstained. The questions below are also embedded in the comments document but are reiterated here for clarity.

1a   Have Exec members had the chance to see and debate the final 'plan' and to approve the document signed off by the Co-operative Executive Member for Finance and Resources ?

Yes, all Exec members and all political parties have been briefed and provided with the opportunity to comment.

1b   Who will be the Corporate Landlord in the executive model?

The Council acts as Corporate Landlord.

1c   The plan suggests it is "Inspired by successes delivered through our previous plan "Assets for our Communities...". What examples are there to illustrate this?

There are numerous examples across the Council's Estate including managing lettings to hundreds of community and third sector groups; managing commercial space in Heart of the City; Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park, Devonshire Quarter and Carbrook; acquiring land and buildings for delivery of social housing; working with other public sector partners to look at opportunities for co-location and delivery of shared services. Specific examples can be seen through the decisions published on the Councils website. E.g., lease of the GII listed Old Coach House in Hillsborough to Age UK to enable Heritage Lottery funding to be secured to repair and find sustainable new use for this important heritage asset; acquisition of property to enable the delivery of accommodation for Care Leavers; delivery of the Woodseats library and GP hub.

1d   There is not a single mention of the City's history & heritage assets at all in this plan. A dangerous and damning omission that undervalues the visitor economy potential for the city in helping "improve lives and create a place which works for Sheffield's people. " Will this be addressed in the sub-policies and in which policy area will it fall?

Whilst this document does not provide a specific strategy for managing the Council's heritage assets, the Council recognises the importance of heritage assets in its care. The listed status of any assets is considered as part of decision making and historic assets are recognised as an important part of the city's heritage.

1e   How will Property Services engage with City residents to make them part of the decision-making process?

As a Council, we are committed to inclusive decision making and will be exploring with Local Area Committees how best local people can input into decisions the Council makes.

1f   In modernising the estate will repurposing and refurbishing be at the top of the priorities since, from an environmental point of view, these are generally better options than demolition and new build?

Repurposing and refurbishing are considered as options in any decision making and many buildings have been successfully reused and repurposed across the estate, however it is not always possible to do so. Each building/asset will be assessed on its merits and the decision to refurbish or reuse will be informed by any appropriate assessment and surveys.

1g   In modernising our city what evidence has been gathered that 'major developments' are still the right solution to the market for workspaces and retail?

All developments take account of market conditions at the time and assessments are made as part of any decisions taken. Clearly the market changes regularly and even more so in the light of the recent pandemic.

1h   In tackling the climate emergency to what outside organisations is Sheffield listening and from what outside sources might investment or other funding be available?

The Council has been working with a number of external organisations to develop its approach to addressing the climate emergency. Our Green City Partnership Board, which included representation from both our Universities, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, the South Yorkshire Climate Alliance, Community Energy England and the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, oversaw the development of our pathways to zero carbon evidence base and final report. This work itself engaged with a number of Sheffield organisations, including business and community organisations.   Our draft 10 point plan for climate action has a commitment to create a panel of advisors to help us develop our plans and Interventions.   Through this we will set up a panel of independent experts to give professionals, researchers and people and businesses who are already leading the way in reducing their emissions

the opportunity to help us to develop policy and interventions that work for Sheffield and for the planet.

1i Will the city adopt a 'make the developer pay' approach?

Through a combination of a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the new Local Plan, we are intending to introduce a number of requirements on new development that will help to reduce carbon emissions and respond to the effects of climate change (e.g. more energy efficient buildings; renewable energy generation, electric vehicle infrastructure, tree-planting, sustainable drainage systems). Many of these measures will add to the cost of development, so in that sense the developer is 'paying'. Under national planning policy, the Council will be required to assess whether the cumulative impact of the Local Policies is likely to make development economically unviable.

1j In 'our framework' will council reflect the changing work profile, likely to remain even after the pandemic and reverse the damaging centralisation of services for a more 'neighbourhood' approach for service engagement for the public?

As part of the Workplace of the Future project the Council is looking at how best to deliver services, take account of new working practices and assess how services can be delivered in local neighbourhoods.

1k In unlocking money, what work has been done to identify and what are the surplus estate assets proposed for disposal in 2022/23 financial year?

The Council is currently reviewing its estate and identifying which assets it should retain and which can be made available for other uses. The list of available assets for disposal is circulated to Local Ward members in line with the Council constitution on a bi-monthly basis.

1l In managing our estate Council commit to "Be transparent in the decisions we take – we recognise the importance of good standards of governance in public authorities and the need for robust processes to guide decision making we will be transparent in the decisions we take to ensure we can legitimately withstand challenge."

What will this look like?

Decisions on management of the Council's estate are made in line with the Council's constitution and the Leaders Scheme of Delegation.

Detailed policies will be developed over the next 12 months however decisions will be brought through the process as set out in the Council's constitution.

1m In the clear approach to asset management, there are so many questions but to highlight just 3:

"Gather, record and maintain information about the estate to provide sufficient information to make decisions " Is this really not available? How have decisions been made in the past without such information?

The Council holds a wealth of information about its assets and has recently undertaken an assessment of the condition, use and suitability of the estate to inform decision making.

"Only hold the minimum estate required for service delivery. Reducing inefficient, underutilised and unfit property through timely demolition (where appropriate) and disposal thereby avoiding ongoing associated costs " Businesses of all sizes have recognised the danger of being too lean, emergency impacts like the pandemic and the climate emergency need quick responses and that is not possible without a bit of fat in the system. Will Council ensure property decisions are made with this in mind?

Yes

"Ensure any lettings for community use are based on sound business cases, meet needs of the community and city and are viable and sustainable " What support will be offered to community and social enterprises to ensure a level playing field against corporate interests?

There isn't a defined policy in place, however if a prospective tenant were to come forward asking for some form of flexibility / favourable terms, each case would be considered on its individual merits, with particular regard to what they were planning to do with the building.

For example, if a prospective occupier was looking to deliver something that supported Council policy OR helped to fill a void and enabled delivery of something that helped to support Council policy. Alternatively, there might be scope for flexibility in instances where the legal status (e.g. charitable organisation) of the applicant might enable them to access grant funding to ultimately improve the asset e.g. Heritage Lottery etc. that we as a Council were not eligible to apply for.

1n In what success looks like, clarity is needed about the 'range of sources' Council will use to build the evidence base. Is there any clarity available?

The Council currently measures its performance through a range of criteria and benchmarks its performance using the CIPFA benchmarking process which compares performance against other Local Authorities. The CIPFA metrics cover a range of areas including, income, cost, condition, maintenance, building performance, management, energy performance.

In addition, the Council has performance indicators which consider other measures such as customer response times and delivery against statutory timescales.

1o   "...we will develop measurable targets ..." How did Council measure success up to now? (experience suggests that beyond monetary value they did not).

See above.

1p   What is the timeline for these further policy documents?

Policies will be brought forward through the decision-making process over the next 12 months.

Q3   When will details of the "...significant engagement..." on the sub-policies be available and what form will this take?

There are no details as yet. Engagement will depend on the policy and the timescale for delivery.

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